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CITY NEWS

50¢

INSIDE

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AT A GLANCE

Striving for leadership in our community

by Kaylin Dines

NEWARK—While society expects parents to be leaders in the home, panelists for the "Creating Leadership Roles in the Community" workshop at the recent women's conference at the Robert Treat Hotel encouraged parents, particularly women, to step out of their comfort zone to fill various leadership voids.

Panelists provided personal accounts of leadership, dispelled leadership myths, and stressed the importance of why women should step out into community-based leadership roles.

Kim Thompson Gaddy, Chief of Staff for Councilwoman Mildred Crump and member of the Newark Board of Education, described her road to leadership. Gaddy stated that she maintained grades of "A's and B's" but admitted to being a "loud-mouth, tomboy."

She credits being "the youngest of eight children," "the grace of God," and the watchful eyes of her "teachers" for the discipline that now assists her in leadership roles.

As a young girl, Gaddy said she was told that she had leadership. See LEADERSHIP page 10

Payne lunches with students

by Sherry Burrus

NEWARK—Shouts of "Sit here, Mr. Congressman" were propelled from a group of fifth graders who were all smiles when Congressman Donald Payne lunched at the Maple Avenue School. Congressman Payne, who also visited the Lafayette Elementary School in Elizabeth, ate lunch with students as a sign of his opposition to the GOP proposed budget which would cut child nutrition programs in schools across America.

"Hungry children do not make good students; they are impaired in their ability to learn," said Congressman Payne.

"Attempting to reduce the budget by denying food to children is not only morally wrong, it is economically short-sighted. I hope that my colleagues in Congress will wake up to this reality before it is too late," stated Payne in a written statement.

According to the Congressman, the money saved will go toward deficit reduction. \$6 billion will go to aiding people involved in the California earthquake, and tax reductions for people making up to \$200,000.

"We can have a youngster in a school nutrition program having their lunch eliminated so we can give a tax relief for some person making close to a quarter-of-a-million dollars. That's unjust, unfair and its desecration in its approach."

Calling it a war on poor people and the most fragile among us, See SCHOOL LUNCH page 3

A SALUTE TO WOMEN

Women empowering women

by Sandra Wright

NEWARK—It was indeed a woman's day, the Pennsylvania/New York Rooms of the Robert Treat Hotel were filled from wall to wall with women, who had given up maybe a day of shopping, running errands, and doing household chores to "empower themselves."

From the looks of things, Newark's First Women's Conference was a huge success. After a half day of attending workshops on education and spiritual empowerment, hundreds of women attended the luncheon, for another round of "empowerment."

There was electricity in the air as members of the Saved Recovered Sisters, a group of former drug and alcohol addicts, delivered a spirit-filled rendition of *Look Where He Brought Me From*. Luncheon attendees responded with cheers of "Amen," "Thank You," and "Yes."

Students from the Genesis Shulé School in Newark wrapped up the entertainment with the recital of poems and a performance of *Cum By Ya My Lord*. Clad in green uniforms accented by Kente cloth dashikis, hats and ties, amidst steady drum beats the children articulately chanted: "We were not slaves, you enslaved us, moved into Africa, stormed our villages ripped apart our communities, enslaved our people offered them into European bondage, we created no crime, you penalized us, stocked your ships with our ancestors...one upon the other."

The room was silent as all eyes and ears were tuned in to the action on stage. The children ranged in ages from maybe seven to twelve years old, but their little voices rang loud (with the help of the mic) over the steady rhythm of the drums, (which were played by what seemed to be a pair of twins).

Social activist Edna Thomas was honored for her countless services to the city of Newark and its residents. Councilwoman Crump who presented her with a plaque and a watch engraved with the official Newark seal had this to say:

"There is not one elected official

who achieved that status without the help of Edna Thomas...Beyond her political efforts she is a social activist. And as the director of Solo House has helped to change lives...from drug rehabilitation to children concerns, a long list of your fellow women take this opportunity to say we admire you, we honor you and we salute you (for so many jobs well done and for your exemplary life)."

Rising from her wheel chair to accept the award, Thomas received a rousing applause from the women.

One of the only two Councilmen present at the conference, Councilman Louis Quintana commended his colleague on imple-

menting the conference.

"I'm here to support whatever Councilwoman Mildred Crump does and...some of my colleagues have decided to go play golf, to be with the fellas at the club, and I understand that, but there is a commitment here today, that is more important than golf or any other political agenda." This brought a rousing applause from the audience.

Other political figures present were Councilman Ron Rice, Congressman Donald Payne and Senator Wymona Lipman.

Senator Lipman stated that during her time in politics, her See EMPOWER page 10



Councilwoman Mildred Crump (l) cheers for activist Edna Thomas (r) after presenting her with a plaque. Kim Gaddy of the Newark Board of Ed. (background) looks on.

Daughter of The Motherland

A tribute to women of color

by Janet S. Hillman

*Daughter of the Motherland, earthiness and blackness becomes you
With your natural beauty you far exceed all the other daughters of the earth,
Your unique features cause your face to shine with such an glow that is contagious to those around you.
Your dark eyes, your full lips and your nose give you a distinctiveness of which you should be proud
O Daughter of the Motherland.*

*Daughter of the motherland,
Your outward appearance compliments your inner beauty,
You also display the nature of a woman who has a reservoir of motherly love,
It is no wonder you care for everything "and around you, giving them food, clothes and shelter,
but most of all, you give them love
the only necessary ingredient for life and living
O Daughter of the Motherland.*

*Daughter of the motherland,
Be proud of who you are,
You are a tower of strength
that keeps the family ties when the king man has left the scene
You have become mother, father all in one
Sole breadwinner, burden bearer
O Daughter of the Motherland.*

*Daughter of the Motherland,
You're queen of my heart
Defy everything that says you are not who you really are because of the color of your skin
You have beauty
You have brains
Stand tall and be the example you were fashioned to be
O Daughter of the Motherland.*

Violence against women increase

by Sherry Burrus

BLOOMFIELD—One out of four college women have either been raped or suffered attempted rape; 57 percent of rapes occur on a date; 33 percent of college males said that they would commit rape if they could escape detection; and 25 percent of college men believed that rape was acceptable if the woman asked the man out, if the man pays for the date or if the woman goes back to the man's room after the date.

These are alarming statistics taken between 1985 and 1988, which were provided at the NJ Summit on Violence Against Women conference at Bloomfield College. The Zonta Club of Essex County, an international women's organization dedicated to improving the legal, economic, political, professional and health status of See VIOLENCE page 10

Educating our children for the future

by Kaylin Dines

NEWARK—Recently, history was made in the Renaissance City when over four hundred black and Hispanic women attended the First Women's Conference on Friday and Saturday, March 17 and 18 at the Robert Treat Hotel.

Based on the theme, "Empowering Black & Hispanic Women for the 21st Century," and spearheaded by Councilwoman Mildred Crump and the Newark Municipal Council, the conference featured workshops designed to encourage continued progress regarding: Intergroup Relationships, Education, Economics, Welfare Reform, Health,

Parenting Skills, Spirituality, Politics and Grass Roots organizing.

During the "Education and Empowerment" workshop, panelists pinpointed dilemmas, focused on molding future leaders, reflected on an unforgettable past and highlighted goals to strive for.

Panelist Lynette France, Head Teacher of Genesis Shulé School in Newark said, "we tend to forget that all children are educated. It is foolish for any researcher to tell us that 'some children are educated and some are not.'"

"Some children are educated positively to make contributions to society. Others are educated negatively, and become a burden to society."

France also noted that parents should tell the people responsible for the education of children that they have messed up the business. The educator blames the "visionless leaders" for not meeting the needs of the students; and the parents, for not being accountable for society's future—the youth. As a result we see the fruits of our nonchalance," continued France.

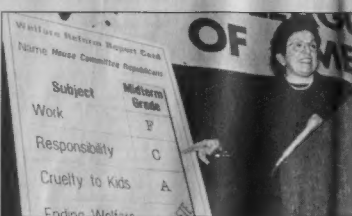
Another person who strongly believes that the education of youth should be our sole responsibility was panelist Morena-Vega Executive Director of New York's Caribbean Cultural Center.

According to Morena-Vega, "the responsibility (to teach) is ours. The contract (not with America) will disproportionately

affect women of color."

France stressed the importance of teaching basic skills and as she encouraged women to "have children simulate adult leadership behavior," she suggested, that children model and simulate women's conferences in school. "If we are not training our children in leadership activities how will we empower them to lead?"

Morena-Vega said, people of color are intentionally excluded from the jobs that make this country and policy. "Somewhere in our hearts, because we are a sacred people, (we believe) 'people can't be that mean. People can't hate us so much.' Look at the contract New Gingrich and the Republicans have put See CHILDREN page 5



Secretary Shalala displays a copy of the Republican report card. Photo courtesy of HHS.

WASHINGTON, DC—Stating that true welfare reform must reinforce the core values of work, responsibility, and reaching the next generation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Donna E. Shalala graded the House Republicans' welfare reform proposal and gave them failing grades.

Shalala, speaking before the Child Welfare League of America in Washington, D.C., demonstrated a blow-up report card and read off the inconsistencies within the Republican's proposal.

"Proposals that are weak on work and cruel to kids are not real

reform," said Shalala. "What's worse, they totally leave out common sense measures that enable people to move into good jobs. We need to ask them: Where is the child care? Where is the education? Where is the job training?"

On promoting work, Shalala gave the Republicans an "F" for not balancing the tough expectations that are needed to move people from welfare to work with clear pathways of opportunity. According to their plan Republicans consider cutting people off from welfare the same as offering them work-related activities.

As for responsibility the Republican proposal received a

"C." Although Republicans keep promising to include tough child support provisions in their proposal, they still haven't done it.

"I am hopeful that the House Republicans will turn in their child support plans late," said Shalala, "and raise their grade."

Ironically, the only outstanding grade issued was for "cruelty to kids." The Republican proposal received an "A" on this subject. "Every time I hear a plan to take food out of the mouths of children or a plan to punish children for their parents' past mistakes I am reminded of the movie 'Dumb and See REPUBLICANS page 10

PEOPLE

King honored as 'Woman of Distinction'

NEWARK—Vivian Sanks King, Esq., a lifelong resident of the Newark area, has been named one of the 1995 Girl Scout Women of Distinction. King will receive the Women of Distinction-Girl Scout World of Well Being Award at the awards ceremony on Thursday, April 6. She lectures and counsels senior citizens about living wills and estate planning and works with HIV and AIDS patients to inform them of their rights.

Dr. Beverly Dunston Scott of

Orange will be presented the Women of Distinction-Girl Scout World of Well Being Award. Currently a private consultant, Dr. Scott is a former professor at Rutgers University, New York University and UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. She voluntarily tutors children and raises money for educational scholarships. Dr. Scott also volunteers her skills and time to help improve the quality of life for disadvantaged children, the homeless, sick and unemployed.



Maria Vizcarondo De Soto. Photo by Glen Frieson

NEW BRUNSWICK—Women who have made outstanding contributions in the areas of science, public service, community activism and education received New Jersey Women of Achievement Awards at Rutgers' Douglass College recently.

The nine women honorees were: Maria Vizcarondo-De Soto of Newark, surrogate of Essex County and first Latino surrogate in Essex County; Alice Jennings Archibald of New Brunswick, a community leader and volunteer; Linda Bowker of Haddon Township, director of the N.J. Division on Women; the late Maria Barnaby Greenwald, the first woman to serve as mayor of Cherry Hill; Rose M. Heck, the mayor of

Nine outstanding women honored at Douglass College

Hasbrouck Heights; Evangelia Mitchell-Tzanakou of Menchueta, a professor of biomedical engineering at Rutgers; Eleanor Petersen of Saddle River, an architect and community activist; Deborah T. Puritz of Princeton, New Jersey's first woman attorney general; and Dr. Bernice Proctor Venable of North Brunswick, superintendent of the Trenton Public Schools.

"This year's Women of Achievement are an inspiration to the students of Douglass College and to all the young women of New Jersey," said Martha Cotter, acting dean of Douglass College. "All the citizens of our state can take great pride in the wonderful accomplishments of these dedicated women."



Irizarry sworn in as member of EMA Health Services

NEWARK—Maria Irizarry (l), administrator of the Newark "Ryan White Unit" is sworn in as a member of the Newark Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA) Health Services Planning Council by Deputy City Clerk Claude Wallace (r). Joining her are her mother, Lolli Irizarry (c) and Assistant Newark Business Administrator Catherine Cusmo-Cecere. As the Ryan White administrator, Irizarry is responsible for securing and administering federal Ryan White Fund dollars earmarked to fight the AIDS virus in the city and the Newark EMA, a five-county region. Irizarry and other city officials were able to recently secure \$5.2 million in supplemental funds. The EMA received \$5.5 million in formula funding earlier this year. The money will finance hospitals and other service providers serving individuals infected with AIDS and HIV throughout the Newark EMA.

Rosario to head AMP

Hilda Rosario (l) of Newark has been named project administrator of the Greater Newark Alliance for Minority Participation Program (AMP) at NJIT. The five-year \$5 million program funded by a National Science Foundation grant, is an alliance of eleven NJ colleges and universities working together to increase the number of African American, Hispanic, and Native Americans graduating with degrees in science, engineering and math.



Plainfield School Board Candidates Forum

PLAINFIELD—The Plainfield League of Women Voters is sponsoring a School Board Candidates Forum on Wednesday, April 5, at the Plainfield High School Auditorium starting at 7:30 p.m. This event is open to the public, offering an opportunity for Plainfield citizens to direct questions to the individuals running for office, and hear their views and plans regarding the various issues facing their community schools.

Berio named NJIT dean of student services

Dr. Eida Berrio of West Orange has been named dean of student services of NJIT. Berrio will manage wide range of student-related services including residence halls, food service, student activities, student counseling, health services, and specialized services for foreign students and faculty.

Photo courtesy of NJIT



Eida Berrio

Drifters give back to community

EAST RUTHERFORD—On Sunday, March 5 the Montclair Drifters, a women's civic organization, hosted their Annual Brunch at the Sheraton Meadows in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

Over 600 attended the fundraising event which will benefit charitable organizations in Newark and Jersey City. The proceed recipients are Lighthouse Community Services of Newark, the York Street Project in

Jersey City, North Porch Women's and Infants' Center of Newark and Project Babies of Essex County.

Additional funds from the event will support the Drifters' Scholarship Fund. Currently, four students are receiving a \$1,000 scholarship which the organization plans to follow throughout their remaining years of college. The students are attending Rutgers, Montclair State, Morehouse and the Culinary Institute.

The Montclair Drifters was founded in 1961 and is part of the National Drifters Organization which has chapters nationally.

Drifter members are: JoAnne Sanders, president of Plainfield; Marguerite Foster, VP of West Orange; Carolyn Nunery, corresponding secretary of Montclair; Gen Furlow, treasurer of East Orange; and Janet Rich, financial secretary.

El-Amin appointed to Delinquency Prevention Advisory Committee

TRENTON—Governor Whitman has announced the appointment of eleven members to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Advisory Committee.

The appointees are: Siddique W. El-Amin of Plainfield, Attorney General Deborah Pritz; William Waldman, commissioner of Human Services; Leo Kligholz, education commissioner; William Fauver, corrections commissioner; Len Fishman, health commissioner; Susan L. Reiser, public defender; Daniel Carey of Egg Harbor; Lydia E. Munoz of Vineland; Iris Gollatz of Howell; and Carla Michelle Handel of Cedar Grove.



Siddique W. El-Amin

Saluting women of courage



WASHINGTON, DC—First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton addressed the third annual "Women of Courage" awards luncheon hosted by the National Federation of Black Women Business Owners, held recently in Washington, DC. Pictured with the First Lady are (l-r) Mary Walker, president of NFBWO; Sarah Davidson, secretary of NFBWO; Shirley Caesar, famed gospel singer; and Alexis Herman, director of White House Office of Public Liaison. Photo courtesy of the White House.

Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

NEWARK—Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program in the Newark Public Library on Wednesdays from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. For more info call 201-900-3456.

GLEN RIDGE—Essex County Board of Freeholders 1995 Budget hearing meeting at Glen Ridge Town Hall Council Chamber at 7 p.m. For more info call 201-621-4483.

MARCH 30 THRU MAY 11

HACKENSACK—"Making Positive Changes" support group helping women take control over their lives at the Center and Life Counseling Center from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. For info call 201-343-0000, Ext. 3345.

THURSDAY, MARCH 30

CRAWFORD—Union County College Athletic Office is selling tickets for NetPortland game which takes place on 3:30 at 7:30 p.m. at the Brendan Byrne Arena. For more info call 201-730-7093.

NEWARK—Essex County Board of Freeholders 1995 Budget hearing meeting at Hall of Records (King Bivak) at 7 p.m. For more info call 201-621-4483.

JERSEY CITY—"Spring Blood Drive" at Jersey City State College from 10 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. For more info call 201-900-3456.

PLAINFIELD—Housing Workshop from 10 a.m. to noon at Plainfield Action Services. For more info call 908-753-3526.

MONTECLAIR—"The Naked Truth" Advertising's Image of Women" lecture at Montclair State University from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. For more info call 201-655-5114.

MAHWAH—"Community" A multi-ethnic quartet of women singers will be performed at Ramapo College. For more info call 201-629-7468.

NEWARK—Community Meeting at the Community Church of God hosted by Newark City Council President Donald Bradley and District leaders #27 at 7 p.m. For more info call 201-733-8043 or 5392.

FRIDAY, MARCH 31

NEW YORK—"Women in Late 19th Century American Painting" a gallery

at The Metropolitan Museum of Art at 11 a.m. For info call 212-570-3930.

PLAINFIELD—"Water Burrow," play, will be performed at Plainfield High School at 8 p.m. For more info call (908) 908-221-5871 or (evening) 908-754-2758.

NOW THRU MARCH 31

MIDDLESEX COUNTY—Anyone wishing to suggest looks for the Third Annual Lunch and Learn Seminar focusing on the Americans with Disabilities Act should call 908-356-2630 or (voice/TTY) 908-745-4013.

ELIZABETH—Art exhibit by faculty of NJ Center for Visual Arts on display in Freeholders Meeting Room. For more info call 908-558-2550.

MARCH 31 AND APRIL 1

METUCHEN—NJ Historical Miniature Associates presents their twentieth Annual Expo '95. For more info call 201-460-8880.

NOW THRU APRIL 13

PLAINFIELD—Plainfield residents pre-register to receive free government surplus food from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 2 to 4:30 p.m. evening hours also available on specific days. For more info call 908-753-1519.

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NATIONAL NEWS at a glance

■ Mississippi abolishes slavery

It was about 130 years late, but the Mississippi legislature last week completed ratification of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution. That is the amendment which abolished slavery in 1865, shortly after the Civil War. Originally, state lawmakers refused to ratify the amendment because they wanted to be reimbursed for the value of the freed slaves. Most of the lawmakers voting last week said they were not aware that the state had never ratified the amendment.

—JACKSON, MS

■ Bill aims to get more money for minority businesses

Black Maryland Congressman Albert Wynn has introduced Congressional legislation which would require banks and other commercial lenders to open up their books for greater scrutiny. The reason: Wynn is convinced that the lenders are discriminating against minorities when it comes to mortgages and business loans. The legislation is called the Small Business Lending Disclosure Act. Wynn explained, "I would like to identify the banks doing the lending and those that are only interested in lucrative deposits without meeting the credit needs of minority businesses." However Wynn acknowledges that the legislation will be difficult to pass in the conservative, Republican-dominated Congress.

—WASHINGTON, DC

■ A look at AFDC recipients

As Congress considers major changes to the welfare system, much attention has been focused on people who get Aid to Families with Dependent Children, the nation's basic cash benefit program. The program distributes benefits to 14 million people, including 3.8 million mothers age 15-44, 9.7 million children, 500,000 mothers 45 and over and over 300,000 fathers living with their dependent children. The Census Bureau says that 28 percent of mothers 15 to 44 years old who received AFDC in 1993 had their first child before they turned 18 years old. Almost 50 percent (1.1 million) of all AFDC recipients in 1993 were married mothers with an average of 2.8 children each. One-half million mothers on AFDC were in intact marriages. Most married mothers (449,000) on AFDC had separated from their spouses or had husbands absent from the household. AFDC mothers tended to have more children than those who did not receive AFDC payments. AFDC mothers had 2.6 children on average compared with 2.1 children born to mothers not receiving AFDC. One-quarter of African American mothers 15-44 years old (1.5 million) out of 5.7 million received AFDC payments. More white women (2.1 million) than black women received AFDC payments, but they represented only 7 percent of all white mothers in the childbearing ages.

—WASHINGTON, DC

■ Civil Rights legend in print

Bus Ride to Justice by Attorney Fred D. Gray is now off the press. The book is about the life and work of the Alabama preacher, attorney and politician. He served as the lawyer for Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Jr., the Montgomery Bus boycott, the Tuskegee Syphilis Study, the Desegregation of Alabama Schools and the Selma March. —WASHINGTON, DC

■ African Americans and affirmative action

The U.S. Congress is grappling with the issue of dismantling affirmative action programs, and most of Congress is on record as supporting these programs. However, the results of 30 years of these programs reveals that although African Americans constitute 11 percent of the total work force, they made up less than 4 percent of the following occupations as of 1992: Lawyers and judges (2.7 percent); dentists (1.9 percent); doctors (3.7 percent); industrial engineers (3.4 percent); engineers (3.7 percent); managers in marketing, advertising and public relations (3.1 percent). —WASHINGTON, DC

■ King Center to resume tours of MLK birth home

The National Park Service and the family of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. have reached a truce on part of a dispute involving the federal agency's plans for a museum honoring King. The park service, under a new agreement, will temporarily resume free tours of the home where the civil rights leader was born. The family halted the tours in December as a result of the dispute and evicted the agency. The agreement will be re-evaluated in July. —ATLANTA, GA

The nation's priorities

WASHINGTON, DC—Most conservatives argue that if your heart is right your money will follow. Republicans and conservative Democrats say that their hearts are with children and the poor.

How does one judge a "heart" that is invisible and, like intent, hard to measure? Actions are a better measuring stick. That is why the Bible says, "Where your treasure is there will your heart be also."

Where your treasure is, is objective, measurable and gives witness to where your heart really is. It's another way of saying that your actions speak louder than your words. Thus, the federal budget, the nation's treasure, is the true test and reflection annually of the nation's real values and priorities.

Congress, Republicans mainly, but also some Democrats, are cutting the heck out of parts of this year's budget (\$17.3 billion). Mainly those parts dealing with the most vulnerable among us—women, infants, children and the elderly poor.

They are cutting Healthy Start and WIC programs, which provide prenatal care and infant nutrition. Tens of thousands of children could go to schools growing shabbier, because \$1 billion was cut from aid to the poorest local school districts—which reveals the utter dishonesty of conservative talk about basing affirmative action on need.

Congressional Republicans are intent on shredding the social safety net, but even more importantly defeating the ideology of the 60 years-in-the-making Liberal Welfare State, which they blame for all of our current social problems and pathologies.

Thus, Congress cut 100,000 college scholarships and 600,000 summer jobs for 1995 and 1996, insuring that the \$10 billion they voted for new prison cells will not be wasted.

They cut \$3 billion from federally-funded foster care and adoption services, and proposed a states' rights overhaul of existing patch-

work programs—i.e., they propose to send largely unregulated consolidated block grants to the states.

In 1993, nearly 3 million children were reportedly abused or neglected, a 130 percent increase in 10 years, and approximately 450,000 children are in foster care.

The elderly—with 8 million households scraping by on less than \$10,000 a year—were hit even harder. The generation that survived the depression, conquered Hitler and Stalin, and built the prosperity that we now all enjoy, were hit with \$2.8 billion in housing cuts for the elderly.

Two million households receive help to pay winter heating bills, enabling them to have both heat and medicine. Congress terminated the program.

Republicans feel they are already being painted as cold and uncaring about children, the handicapped, the poor and the elderly. But this is just the down payment on \$20 billion in cuts that Congress is planning. To trip the deficit? No! The Republicans plan to give the Pentagon, where most of the waste, fraud and abuse currently is, even more money. No, they are treating the poor in order to take care of the rich—i.e., to pay for the tax cuts the Republicans plan to give to friends.

That means even more and deeper cuts for those who do not or cannot vote. Sen. Bob Packwood (R-OR) is talking about cutting \$400 billion from Medicare (for the elderly) and Medicaid (for the poor). Can Social Security be far behind?

When 1,000 children protested outside the Capitol last Sunday, Republicans accused the organizers of exploiting children and defending the special interests of the Welfare State. Buckle up for safety, Republicans are on the rampage.

Nigeria moves positively towards civilian rule

WASHINGTON, DC—The Nigerian Government, headed by General Sani Abacha, is on a non-reversible course towards civilian rule. This sentiment was expressed strongly in a letter to Randa Robinson, head of TransAfrica by Nigeria's Ambassador to the United States, Zubair Kazare.

"Nigeria, like the rest of the world, is indeed moving in the direction of democratic reform and reconciliation," said Ambassador Kazare. "What we have in Nigeria is a patriotic military government with a sense of mission to restore Nigeria to democracy in consultation with all groups and sections of the Nigerian society."

According to Ambassador Kazare, the recent violent civic unrest and other activities, orchestrated by those who describe themselves as pro-democracy, threatened the security of the people, citizens and foreigners alike.

He also emphasized that if actions are not taken against those who are planning to plunge the nation into anarchy and bloodshed, democracy will continue to elude Nigerians. "Nigeria can only return to democracy in a peaceful and stable environment," the Ambassador stated.

In his letter, the Ambassador assured Robinson that the rights of those arrested will be respected and their cases would be treated according to the due process of law. Plus,

no critics of the military regime have been killed because of their views. The freedom of the press is still highly respected in Nigeria. As regards to labor union, they continue to protect the rights of their members.

Meanwhile, the ban on political activities is partially lifted and several political associations, some of which will metamorphose into full-scale political parties, have been formed. It is also important to note that the United Nations Committee on Human Rights recently rejected a resolution criticizing Nigeria's human rights record.

Regarding the economy, the government's guided deregulation of the foreign exchange regime and the reduction in public expenditure have been steadily strengthening the Nigerian currency since January.

A special fund, administered by a trusted group of eminent Nigerians, is used for the improvement of the infrastructure, education and health service. Proceeds from the recent removal of subsidies on petroleum are also being used to fund the effort.

The National Constitutional Conference is now meeting under one roof and addressing these issues and problems that have been impeding democratic processes in the past. The Conference consists of elected representatives from all the states of the Federation and reflecting various ethnic groups and political persuasions.

School lunch

(Continued from page 1)

Payne said these cuts will hurt those children on public assistance who's money has been exhausted by the middle of the month.

"These children depend almost solely on school nutrition programs...when they leave school there is no meal for some of them until they come to school the next morning."

According to Payne, currently the state is required to spend 90 percent of federal funds on low income children. Under the proposed budget, 80 percent of federal funds will be required to be spent on low income children. It would eliminate all national child nutrition programs and replace them with two block grants: drop requirements for free or reduced priced meals for low-income children; eliminate national standards on quality of meal and doesn't guarantee those who meet the guidelines a meal.

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EDITORIAL

A.M.E. calls for Justice

At the 123rd New Jersey Annual Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, members passed a special resolution which called upon the nation not to balance the budget on the backs of the poor while maintaining special privileges for the wealthy.

The resolution called the "Contract with America," which is a deliberate attack on affirmative action, welfare, and programs which help the poor, a direct effort to divide this country by race, class, and gender.

The resolution also supported reform in the welfare system and urged that reforms include mandatory job training for welfare recipients with a two year time frame to find employment after training, plus child-care provisions, and an increase in the minimum wage.

They went on record to oppose the attack on affirmative action and vowed to oppose any effort and candidate who attempts to repeal it. They stated in their resolution that the "effort to appeal affirmative action is based on racism, and the claim that affirmative action is biased against white males is absurd."

They argue that white males constitute 37 percent of the population, a minority, yet hold 80 percent of the jobs. This group of clergy is concerned for the poor, the cuts imposed by Governor Whitman and urge the governor not to touch affirmative action programs in the state.

President of Rutgers University, Dr. Francis Lawrence's, apology, while accepted they feel endemic, his ability to lead the university and his presence is a reminder of a pervasive thought in this country that African Americans are inferior.

They support the students calling for his resignation and call on the University's board of governors to increase funding for multicultural studies and increase the recruitment of African-American students. While supporting a state takeover of the Newark schools, they hold the state as well as the local school district responsible for failing the children. We must be held accountable to our community and we must be willing to stand for justice.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Cruelty to children continues

Dear editor:

Commissioner of Education, Leo Klagholz reported that the audit of Paterson's school district revealed they are "squandering away money" into an account to pay for repairs and new schools. In that report, however, no one mentioned the fact that over the last four years, Paterson's taxpayers paid for school building renovations in Wayne, Fairlawn and Ridgeland Park, New Jersey.

Since 1991, Paterson's state appointed superintendent and Community Advisory Board bused children in grades K-5 out-of-district schools. After pouring thousands of dollars into repairing each of the buildings that housed the Paterson children, those towns demanded to have their buildings back. Though children are bused out, students in Paterson continue to occupy overcrowded classrooms of thirty-five to forty, with no relief or new schools in sight.

Meanwhile at 7:00 a.m. daily, before receiving a breakfast or a lesson, small children begin their rush-hour bus ride from street to street and on highways to get to school; they repeat the same nightmare in the evening. Parents no longer can walk around the corner or a few blocks away from their homes to communicate with the schools about their children or volunteer their services.

Councilwoman Ames said, "Our city is heading for bankruptcy because of the State's increases in on school budget, and our children are getting nothing in return." Paterson's student per capita expenditures increased from \$7,000 to more than \$11,000, the superintendent's salary rose from \$119,000 to almost \$200,000 and four assistant superintendents make nearly \$80,000 each," she added.

Councilwoman Ames said, "At the onset of state intervention in Paterson, 1,300 students entered high school and at the end of four years, less than 900 students graduated. The student drop-out rate increased and students' test scores decreased dramatically."

As a parent in the Newark school district, I had the displeasure to lead an up-bill battle to end the busing of elementary children. I concur with Councilwoman Ames that busing of this type is not the soundest method of gaining a quality education for children. Additionally, repairing buildings in affluent towns is definitely not the answer to building or fixing Paterson's schools.

Who implied that when the state took over a school district, they (the state) would provide children with a thorough and efficient education without our causing extra burden on the taxpayers? I do believe that the supreme court ordered the state to increase funds in order to reach parity, equalizing spending in urban and affluent districts.

During Mary Lee Fitzpatrick's term as education commissioner, a committee convened for over two years to provide a formula to equalize funding. This far, we have not seen their plan in action. In fact, the State Department of Education received a two-year extension in the last Abbott vs. Burke court ruling.

As a result of the court's order, Governor Christine Whitman and Commissioner Klagholz announced they need a committee to come together as they can "define what is a thorough and efficient education (T & E)." How long will this new committee take to define T & E?

The districts found guilty of holding on to additional money should be ordered to use the surplus dollars to give taxpayers relief. The state should also find another method of educating Paterson's children inside their own school district, and stop the busing!

—Patricia J. Bradford

by Connie Woodruff

What in the world is happening at Newark City Hall? Within a two-week period three councilmen were hospitalized and when initially admitted, were listed in "intensive care" and unable to communicate with the outside world.

At press time staff members assured us that Newark Council President Donald Bradley is well on the road to recovery. He may have suffered a mild heart attack brought on by the stress of work and wrestling with the city's gigantic fiscal and morale problems; Councilman Donald Tucker (another suspected heart attack victim) is on the stable list but still confined to St. Barnabas Hospital.

The latest to be hospitalized is Central Ward Councilman George Branch who was rushed to University Hospital after his car was struck by an alleged stolen automobile involved in a police chase.

Adding to the frustration and misery of the council, a fourth member, Gary Harris, may have a nail-biting week waiting for a jury decision on his guilt or innocence in a trial charging him and former councilman Ralph T. Grant, Jr. with graft.

For a while, at least, Mayor Sharpe James is away from it all. He's on a mission in Germany on behalf of the city.

Does politics make strange bedfellows? You betcha. Last week North Ward political guru Steve Aduabo, St. hosted another of his "theme" parties. This time it was a joint celebration of St. Patrick's Day and St. Joseph's Day and the guest of honor was Essex County's Republican Executive, James Treffinger.

As usual, according to some of the guests, the Aduabo party was a huge success with a proper blend of Democrats and Republicans including former Governor Brendan Byrne, the Essex County Republican and Democratic chairmen John Renna and Tom Giblin and scores of other local and state political biggies.

I was told that Jim Treffinger took all the hoopla in stride, including a few aside remarks aimed at GOP leadership at home and abroad. In pointing out he (Treffinger) deserved every bit of the attention because he is half-Irish and half-Irish and his natural father's surname is Padalino. Ain't it great when you can make that ethnic identification when it counts the most?

Neither was the county executive shy about taking a pot shot at whoever dropped off this

political stunt. In his response to the honours heaped on him by the North Ward crowd, he chose a quote from Machiavelli. It may have been spur-of-the-moment, but many remembered Machiavelli is usually characterized by subtle or unscrupulous cunning, wily and astute doctrines that ignore political morality and countenance the use of craft and deceit in order to maintain the authority and affect the purposes of the ruler.

Hey, Jim, are you trying to tell us something?

At least three candidates may be counting the chickens before they're hatched in preparing to replace Gary Harris on the city council. The Harris-Grant team may be found not guilty and all the preparation will be for naught.

But supporters of the two forerunners eyeing Gary's seat are sure the woman they support will join Mildred Crump on the council.

The office of County Register is under fire again as the result of bills introduced in the Assembly and the State which would abolish the

office in the five counties where it remains.

In Essex, the Register of Deeds and Mortgages is Carol Graves, president of the Newark Teacher's Union. Her register colleagues hold down the post in Camden, Hudson, Passaic and Union counties.

The duties of the office would be transferred to the county clerk. But those presently holding the office would be allowed to continue serving until the end of their terms or until they vacate the post according to the bills submitted by Assemblyman Monroe Jay Lustbader and Senator Louis Bassano.

Lustbader said the legislation is aimed at streamlining county government. "The register's office is outdated. We can't afford it any longer and the proof is the 16 other counties which do it the other way (without special office)."

Last year the Essex County Register's office had a \$1.2 million budget for salaries and wages. Graves, who is fighting a fight to maintain the NTU presidency, really does not need the added aggravation of losing her elected position that puts her in a comfortable financial bracket.

CONGRESS PRETENDS TO VOTE ON TERM LIMITS



YOUTH BEAT

KIDS CALENDAR

CHERRY HILL—Have the Easter Bunny write a letter and send a gift to your youngster for a small fee. For more info call The Arthritis Foundation at 908-283-4300 or 201-986-0100.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

PLAINFIELD—Game Day at Plainfield Public Library for youth 5 and up at 3:30 p.m. For more info call 908-757-1111.

MARCH 29, 30

CRANFORD—Teen Arts Festival, showcasing art work by middle and high school children at Union County College from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For info call 908-556-2550.

THURSDAY, MARCH 30

PLAINFIELD—Plainfield Public Library will show films at 3:30 p.m. For more info call 908-757-1111.

FRIDAY, MARCH 31

PLAINFIELD—Little People Storytime at the Plainfield Public Library for youth 5 and under at 11 a.m. For more info call 908-757-1111.

MORTH OF APRIL

METUCHEN—Free to be... You and Me will be performed at 1 p.m. For more info call 908-548-0562.

JERSEY CITY—Computer Workshops for youth 6-9 will be offered at Jersey City State College. For more info call 201-200-3089.

NEW YORK—Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus will appear at the Meadowlands Arena. For ticket call 201-507-8900.

SATURDAY, APRIL 1

JERSEY CITY—Main Strategies for Grade 5-8 workshop at Jersey City State College. For more info call 201-200-3089.

WAYNE—The Easter Bunny will be visiting Willowbrook Mall. For more info call 1-800-JERSEY-7.

EAST ORANGE—Third annual Healthy Kids Day of fun, fitness, entertainment, prizes, health screenings and seminars for children up to 17 at the YMCA from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Vendors also wanted). For more info call 201-673-5568.

JERSEY CITY—Saturday Art Workshop I: Fantasy Furniture at Jersey City State College from 9 to 11 a.m. For info call 201-200-3089.

APRIL 1, 2

NEW YORK—HAT Making workshop at the Children's Museum of the Arts for children 8-10, every hour between noon and 3 p.m. For info call 201-274-1776.

APRIL 1, 8, 22

JERSEY CITY—"MacKids" computer workshop for youth 6-12 at Jersey City State College. For more info call 201-200-3089.

SUNDAY, APRIL 2

NORTH BRANCH—Beauty and the Beast will be performed by the Children's Storybook Theater at 1, 3:30 and 6 p.m. in The Edward Nash Theater at Raritan Valley Community College. For more info call 908-725-3420.

BPW scholarship applications available

NEWARK—Applications are now available for two \$1,000 scholarship awards presented by Newark Metropolitan Business and Professional Women, Inc. (Newark Metro BPW) to female high school seniors. Eligible students must have been accepted by a recognized college or university, exhibit academic achievement and financial need and be a resident of Newark or attending a school in Newark. Applicants must also present letters of recommendation from one of their teachers and a guidance counselor.

Application forms have been mailed to Newark high school principals. They must be completed in full and returned on or before May 15, 1995 to: Rhona Kaslow Fischer, City of Newark, Room 209, 920 Broad Street, Newark, N.J. 07102.

New book showcases outstanding black students

DARTMOUTH, MA—The first editions of *Outstanding Black College Students* and *Outstanding Black High School Students* have been published. The goal of the publications is to project positive black student images by highlighting black success—academic, creative, and successful leadership.

Approximately 600 black students from 104 universities, and students from historically black universities such as Howard, Spelman, Morehouse, and Morgan are also represented.

Dr. Larry Singleton, a black education professor at the University of Massachusetts—Dartmouth, is the author of both publications.

Children

(Continued from page 1)

out on our children and on you. How do you take away Medicare? How do you take away assistance? How do you take away education?

"The Rutgers University president will tell you that (by inheritance), her voice trails off and workshop participants sigh. Without completing her previous statement Moreno-Vega continued, "Understand, what he said in 1994 is not new, but we act like it is new."

She stated that in order to change the educational school system, we must first change us. "We were brought here to (the United States) as animals, not people. Do you understand that only 35 years ago some of us could not drink from a fountain? The Jews will not forget

the Holocaust, and they are right. The moment that we forget how this country structured our (lifestyle) we allow ourselves to be destroyed."

"With the cutbacks in social programs, housing, and job creation it is imperative that women get busy creating their own businesses, holding officials accountable for their children's education, and running for elected offices," said Panelist Maryann Bey member of the People's Organization for Progress.

Bey encouraged women, "the main caregivers," to strive for independence and "not to depend solely on our husbands or anyone else. We have to depend on ourselves and the Creator. Self-sufficiency is key in providing for our children in case

See CHILDREN page 10

Funding withdrawn from annual games

PLAINFIELD—The Division of Recreation of Plainfield which holds the qualifying meet in Plainfield regrets to announce the cancellation of the 1995 Arco Jesse Owens Track Meet. The Meet which is held every May will not be held this year due to major cutbacks with the Arco Chemical Corporation.

BOOKWORM & THE AFROCENTRIC KIDS™

Story by Greg Morehead

Artwork by Darnell Bradley



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THE EASTER BUNNY AND A SMALL GIFT



PLEASE PRINT

Your Name _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # () _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

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Gender ☐ BOY ☐ GIRL

Name of Child _____

Address _____

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Phone # () _____

Gender ☐ BOY ☐ GIRL

Please Make Checks Payable To:
Arthritis Foundation, NJ Chapter
and mail to:
THE BUNNY HUTCH
496 North Kings Highway, Suite 222,
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

Easter Bunny brings special treat

CHERRY HILL—This Easter, why not surprise a child with a personalized letter from the Easter Bunny? The Arthritis Foundation, New Jersey Chapter will send a special message from the Easter Bunny to children whose families make a contribution to help people with arthritis.

To send a letter and gift to your child from the Easter Bunny, contributions of \$4 per child should be made out to the Arthritis Foundation, and mailed along with the child's name, address, age and sex to: The Bunny Hutch, Arthritis Foundation, New Jersey Chapter, 496 N. Kings Highway, Suite 222, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034.

For more information call the office nearest you, 609-482-0600, 908-283-4300 or 201-986-0100. All proceeds will benefit the New Jersey Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation.

Newark offers after-school youth development dance workshop

NEWARK—The Newark Board of Education's After School Youth Development Program (ASYDP) will sponsor a series of dance workshops for elementary students in grades 5-8.

The program begins on Tuesday, April 4 through May 31,

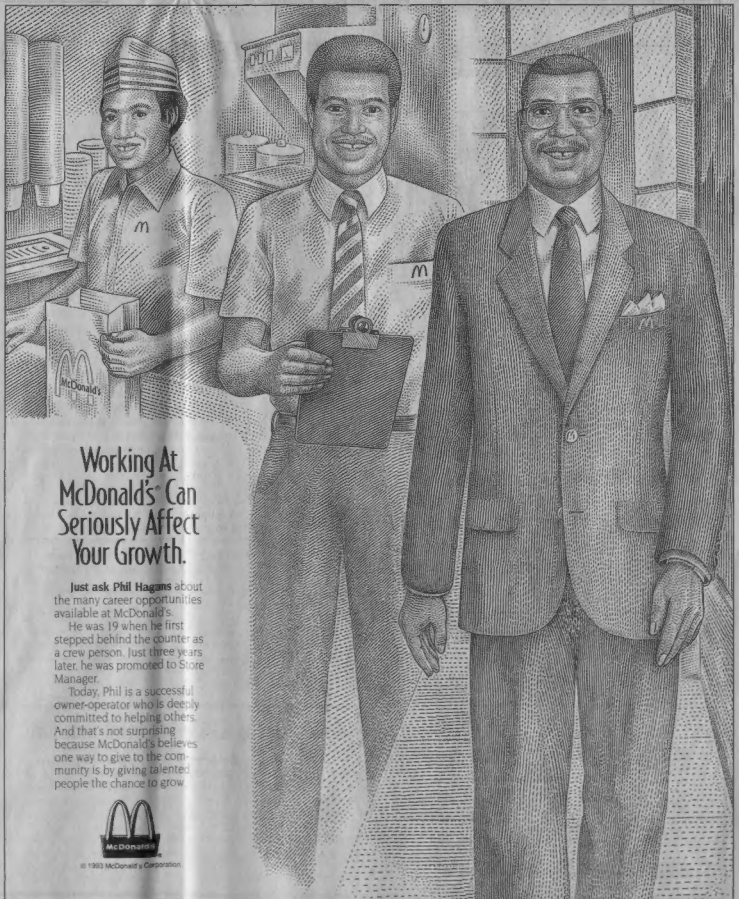
1995, at the Louise A. Spencer School in Newark.

Auditions for students who wish to participate will be held in the school's auditorium from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on April 4 to 5.

The workshop is an eight-week training session that ends

with a final performance. Students' rehearsals are held on Monday through Thursday, and will include instruction in African, jazz, ballet and contemporary dance styles.

For additional information regarding the Workshops, call Mr. Eluardo Webster at 201-733-7344.



Religious Calendar

APRIL 1

ELIZABETH—Gospel play "The Streets Can't Save My Son" at the Renaissance Conference Center. For more info call 908-351-6545.

SUNDAY, APRIL 9 - 14

NORTH PLAINFIELD—Holy Week Services At Community Baptist Church, featuring choirs, ministry and congregations from the tri-state area including Rev. Calvin O. Butts of Abyssinian Baptist Church. For more info call Rev. Wayne Alston 908-753-2026 or 561-7821.

SUNDAY, APRIL 16

NORTH PLAINFIELD—Easter Sunday Sunrise Services with Progressive Baptist Church at Community Baptist Church. For more info call Rev. Wayne Alston at 908-753-2026.

NORTH PLAINFIELD—Easter Sunday Services with Rev. Clarence Walker of Clarence Walker Ministries in Philadelphia, featuring Community Baptist Church Combined Chorus at Community Baptist Church. For info call Rev. Wayne Alston at 908-753-2026.

Cutting prevention programs for children costs taxpayers dearly

- Each dollar spent to immunize children saves between \$6 and \$30 dollars in later medical and social costs.
- Each federal dollar invested in WIC (the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children) returns an estimated \$3.50 over the first 18 years of the child's life to federal, state, and local governments, and to taxpayers in medical costs, Supplemental Security Income payments, and special education costs.
- Preventing very-low-birth-weight saves \$37,504 in the extra costs of hospital and doctor care for each baby who would have been born below 3.4 pounds.
- It costs \$4,434 to maintain a child in Head Start for a year; it costs \$10,205 in direct student charges to maintain a youth at a public college; it costs \$15,586 to maintain a youth in state prison, and six states spend more than \$20,000 per inmate per year; it costs \$26,514 to send a child to Harvard.
- Cash benefits to support an AFDC child at home average \$6 a day, and it typically costs \$100 a day to support a child in an orphanage.
- It would cost about \$4,300 a year to lift an average poor child out of poverty by giving parents jobs, wage supplements, child care, and other supports; it will cost the economy between \$3,600 and \$13,200 per child in lost productivity for every year we continue to ignore children's poverty and the lack of jobs for parents.

Source: The Children's Defense Fund

Black women need education about heart disease

DALLAS—The American Heart Association (AHA) has launched an initiative to educate black women in major metropolitan areas about the seriousness of heart disease.

Even though black women are at far greater risk of developing heart disease than their white counterparts, in regards to medical care, they represent a minority within a minority.

"Heart disease clearly presents a health crisis for [black] women," said Anne L. Taylor, MD, chair of the "Saving Our Lives: Black Women Fighting Heart Disease" conference held recently in Washington, DC.

"The goal of this workshop is to get the message out that heart disease is a serious health threat to black women so they can begin to take responsibility for themselves and their heart health care," Taylor is also chief of cardiology at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Cleveland.

The day-long national conference was a strategic session not only to talk about the problem, but also to implement solutions. Its

goals were 1) to develop strategies to reduce, if not prevent, death and disability due to cardiovascular disease and stroke in the [black] community, 2) to launch an initiative to educate black women in major metropolitan areas on the seriousness of heart disease and stroke, 3) to build partnerships with community-based [black] organizations to establish a cooperative educational effort at the neighborhood level, 4) to support the AHA's continuing effort to draw attention to women's special concerns relative to cardiovascular disease and stroke.

Prevention of heart disease among African-American women really needs to begin in childhood, according to Catherine Cowell, Ph.D., professor of public health at Columbia University, New York.

She recommends: "A food selection guide developed by mothers themselves so it will be culturally relevant. Work on one food or food group at a time" and add to what is already in the diet. "Find out what the dietary practices and behaviors are in the home and work with that mother to help her as the pri-

mary caretaker to make a difference for her children's long-term health."

Trying to correct obesity by adopting fasting diets which supply less than 1,000 calories a day only compounds the problem, she said.

"Weight loss from these diets decreases prostacyclin levels and increases the number of platelet cells, which causes a lot of sickness and clumping within the arterial wall. This plays a major role in the development of the cholesterol plaque which causes atherosclerosis," said Davidson.

In spite of all these interacting risk factors, [black] women have been tremendously under-represented in studies in this country in terms of coronary heart disease," said Cheryl R. Martin, MD, an internist and cardiologist from Milwaukee, Wis. "Women of color have been traditionally under-counted, and there has been a failure to collect subpopulation data for this group.... We must recognize that there is a lack of culturally sensitive health care in this country."

Martin also cited preliminary research

from the University of Georgia that found differences in the elasticity of saphenous veins, such that the vessels of [black] patients were not able to relax under different circumstances than those of white patients studied.

"Researchers speculate that there may be some endothelial damage, or damage to the inner layer of the arteries that accounts for these differences. This may play a role in increased incidence of coronary heart disease among blacks," said Martin.

Since all women tend to delay getting attention for their cardiac symptoms, they ultimately receive less appropriate coronary care than white patients. Physicians are also finding that it is more difficult to diagnose women with coronary artery disease than men.

D. Douglas Miller, MD, associate professor of medicine and director of nuclear cardiology and cardiovascular biology at St. Louis University Medical Center, advised the audience that women need to have enough information about heart disease to understand the diagnostic process and the clinical implications of test results.

Volunteers needed for school task force

PLAINFIELD—Volunteers are needed by the Plainfield Public Schools to serve on a task force to develop plans for fundamental changes in the way science, math and technology are taught in the school district.

Plainfield is one of 18 school districts in the state participating in the New Jersey Statewide Systemic Initiative

(NJ SSI): to bring about major revisions in teaching and learning in math, science and technology so that students will be more competitive.

Participation in the project makes Plainfield eligible for \$160,000 of grant funds. To get the funds, the district needs volunteers to help develop a multi-year plan for all grades. If the

plan is accepted, the school district will get the funds plus an additional \$50,000 of services provided by educational resource groups in the state.

Recently, Evergreen, Cedarbrook, Cook and Woodland elementary schools were selected by the initiative to send teachers to area colleges and universities for advanced training to teach the

subjects in the lower grades.

The first meeting of the task force was held on March 27, 1995, at Plainfield High School. The second meeting will be held on April 10. Volunteers are asked to call Mr. Dentino at 908-753-3168.

The job of the task force will culminate on June 1, 1995 when the plan must be submitted.

Lawwomen donate toys to sick children

NEWARK—More than 25 pediatric patients at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center received some extra attention recently. The children, ranging from 2 months to 12 years, received cheer and gifts from members of the northern NJ Chapter of the National Organization of Black Women in Law Enforcement (NOBWLE).

The group held a toy drive and collected more than 200 items, including stuffed animals, toys, trucks, and games.

"Every year, NOBWLE has a appreciation party, whereby the

members gather and collect toys, clothing, or money to later be donated to area charities. This year we ran a toy drive to give something back to the people who need it most," said Rose M. Wilson of South Orange, president-elect of the group.

In addition to donating toys to patients at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, the members distributed gifts to United Hospital's Medical Center in Newark.

NOBWLE is a non profit organization devoted to further hiring, training, retention and promotion of black females in law enforcement.

Quartet Indigo plays the blues



NEWARK—The jazz string group Quartet Indigo recently performed at the Bethany Baptist Church in Newark as part of the NJ Symphony Orchestra Classic Traditions series.

The group performed traditional jazz featuring the music of Duke Ellington and Scott Joplin as well as original works. The quartet includes

violinist Gay Dixon, violinist John Blake, violinist Ron Lawrence and cellist Albert Jones.

Celebrating their twentieth anniversary this year, the ensemble recorded their first album, Quartet Indigo, on Landmark Records. The repertoire on the album ranges from Scott Joplin to John Coltrane to Telenovis Monk.

Gun amnesty ends soon

NEWARK—In effect since March 13, the Newark Gun Amnesty Buy-back program is scheduled to end on March 31.

The program was started as a cooperative initiative through the City of Newark and the county by Councilman-at-large Donald Tucker and other members on the City Council.

The program is funded by an initial \$50,000 start-up appropriation through the City Council, establishes a "no-questions-asked" way for residents to turn in firearms at established police district

precincts, and receive cash in return. All firearms turned in must be wrapped in paper and taped or tied at drop-off.

Councilman Tucker emphasized the fact that many shootings occur when guns around the house are found by young children, and are discharged by accident. "This is a major tragedy in many communities, and we hope that in addition to reducing the overall incidence of illegal guns, the buy-back program helps make households safer." For drop-off information call the nearest precinct.

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EXERCISE YOUR HEART

The Benefits of Exercise

There's no getting around it. Exercise is an ideal way to reduce stress and build a stronger, healthier heart. In addition to improving your stamina, exercise helps prevent heart disease by burning excess fat, lowering high blood pressure and reducing the amount of "bad" (LDL) cholesterol in your body while raising the amount of "good" (HDL) cholesterol.

It's Never Too Late

Even if your physician says your arteries are partially clogged, exercise encourages your blood vessels to open up. Vigorous exercise like jogging, brisk walking, biking or swimming helps strengthen and tone muscles and gives you more energy.

Exercise, in combination with a diet that is low in saturated fat, can make a difference, regardless of your age.



The Next Step

Cardiologists at Muhlenberg recommend that men and women over 40 and everyone who has questions or concerns should see a physician before starting an exercise program. For these groups, a stress test is advisable, even if no risk factors for heart disease are present.

Muhlenberg offers a full range of diagnostic and treatment services to help you get on with the business of living. For a referral to a cardiologist on staff at Muhlenberg, call HealthLink, our free, confidential 24-hour physician referral service, at (908) 668-3000.

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ARTZ WEDNESDAY

Trazana Beverley stars in Harriet's Return

BILLBOARD

WEDNESDAYS

NEW YORK—Amateur Night at the Apollo, at 7:30 p.m., featuring audience participation, special guest hosts and ticket give-aways. For more info call 212-664-0372.

NEW THRU APRIL 28

PRINCETON—Acrylic on Canvas an exhibit at the Brodsky Gallery in Chancery Conference Center from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more info call 609-921-3600.

SATURDAY, APRIL 1

SOUTH BELMAR—Classic Jazz featuring Sunny Davis and Middle Slim at Jassons at 9, 10:30 and 12 p.m. For info call 908-681-1416.

SOMERVILLE—Central Jersey Symphony Orchestra "Virtuosos Classics" concert at Raritan Valley Community College at 8 p.m. For more info call 908-725-3420.

SHORT HILLS—"Swing Into Spring" benefit concert by the Westfield Symphony's Orchestra from 7 p.m. to 12 a.m. at the Hilton. MUST HAVE RESERVATION. For more info call 908-282-9400.

APRIL 1-7

NEW BRUNSWICK—"Off-Key" opens at the George Street Playhouse. For times and info call 908-246-7717.

SUNDAY, APRIL 2

ROCKAWAY—NJ Youth Symphony performs a "Song Bird Concert" Series at 1 p.m. at Rockaway Townsquare. For more info call 201-361-4070.

NEWARK—NJ Symphony Orchestra re-visits the thrills at Symphony Hall at 3 p.m. For more info call 1-800-ALLLEGRO or 201-624-8203.

BEVERLY—Artist reception at Four Sister Winery for artist of the month, Susan B. Shade, from 2 to 5 p.m. For info call 908-475-5671.

MONDAY, APRIL 3

NEW YORK—Amir Baraka and Gwendolyn Brooks will be part of Writers in Performance '95 at the Manhattan Theatre Club at 7:30 p.m. For info call 212-645-5846.

NEW YORK—Ladies Night with Johnnie Allan at Manny's Car Wash. For more info call 212-369-BLUE.

NEW BRUNSWICK—Tony Award-winning actress Trazana Beverley will resurrect the fabled abolitionist Harriet Tubman for an engaging conversation with today's generations in the world premiere of Karen Jones Meadows' play, *Harriet's Return*. *Harriet's Return* will run through Sunday, April 9. In this evocative one-woman play, Harriet Tubman steps out from behind the legend to reveal the passionate, funny and loving woman, who seized freedom for herself and hundreds of other enslaved blacks in the pre-Emancipation South by leading them northward along the route called the Underground Railroad.

Finding herself in the world of the late 20th century, Harriet has some words of wisdom for the current generation she calls "my special passengers."

Beverley portrays a contemporary woman who finds herself transformed spiritually and physically by Harriet's spirit.

Directed by Crossroads' Artistic

Director and co-founder Ricardo Khan, *Harriet's Return* is rich in the dialect and imagery of Harriet Tubman's era, while bringing Harriet forward to the present.

The young people's version of Harriet's Return, also directed by Ricardo Khan, currently is being toured by Crossroads to schools throughout the state under the auspices of the theater's Community and Education Department.

Acting in a one-woman show is familiar territory for Trazana Beverley. She most recently performed her semi-autobiographical play, *The Spirit Moves*, at the New Federal Theatre. Ms. Beverley won a Tony Award for her portrayal of the "Lady in Red" in Ntozake Shange's *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When The Rainbow Is Enuff*. She currently is directing Steve Carter's *Pecong* at the Aaron Davis Center.

Performances of *Harriet's Return* are Tuesdays Through Sundays at 8 p.m. and

Saturdays and Sundays at 3 p.m. There will be a matinee on Thursday 30 and April 6 at 11 a.m. A Sunday evening performance is scheduled at 7:30 p.m. April 2.

Absolut Vodka is the official sponsor of Harriet's Return. And funding for Crossroads is made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State and the National Endowment for the Arts.

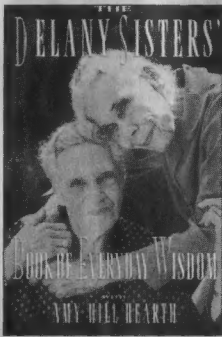
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Trazana Beverley (front) is abolitionist/activist Harriet Tubman in the world premiere of Karen Jones Meadows' play, *Harriet's Return*. She is accompanied on stage by percussionist Ammonia Best.

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The Delany sisters at it again

NEW YORK, NY—Sadie Delany is 105 years old. Her "little" sister Bessie is 103. Daughters of a man born into slavery, they won the hearts of Americans in 1993 with their critically acclaimed book, *Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years*.

Sadie and Bessie are on their way to their second bestseller with their latest release, *The Delany Sisters' Book of Everyday Wisdom*. Written with Amy Hill Hearsh, the book is full of anecdotes and parables—where readers can learn about "home folks, graveyard talk, and why men are a heap of trouble!"

As to their longevity, Bessie jokes the secret might be that they chose to never marry, never had husbands "to worry us to death." More seriously, her sister points first to exercise: for 40 years their day has started with yoga exercises "every day whether you feel like it or not." They wash nutrition close-

ly, stay away from alcohol, smoking, and fatty foods, eat as many as seven vegetables a day, and take vitamin supplements. Their daily breakfast—the day's biggest meal—includes a clove of garlic, finely chopped and swallowed raw, a teaspoon of cod liver oil, and three glasses of boiled tap water.

The book also includes the sisters' recipes for treats such as rose wine, pound cake, watermelon rind pickles, Delany's Delights (chocolate candies Sade sold in New York City shops during the 1920s), and Bessie's favorite coconut cookies.

Much has happened in the Delany sisters' lives in the last year as a result of this success: Their life story will become a Broadway play this spring, produced by Camille O. Cosby and Judith Rutherford Jones.

Looking back, the sisters say they have no regret, and add, "maybe all older people should be asked about their lives. When you

live a long time, you have stories to tell. If only people would ask."

Sarah Delany and Dr. Elizabeth Delany were born in 1889 and 1891 respectively. Their father, born into slavery and freed by the Emancipation, was an administrator at St. Augustine's College in Raleigh, NC, and America's first elected black Episcopal bishop.

Sarah received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Teachers College at Columbia University and was New York City's first appointed black home economics teacher on the high school level. Elizabeth received her degree in dentistry from Columbia University and was the second black woman dentist in New York State. The sisters retired to Mt. Vernon, NY, thirty-seven years ago, where they still live today. Sarah (Sadie) turned 105 on September 19 and Elizabeth (Bessie) turned 103 on September 3.

'Golden rules' on the best kind of loving

by Kaylyn Dines

NEWARK—In the comforts of Ke'Dar, a Newark-based Afrocentric gift and bookstore, noted psychologist Dr. Gwendolyn Goldsby Grant spoke with humor and passion about developing and maintaining positive relationships.

Between book signing, hugs and handshakes, the *Essence Magazine* Advice Columnist gave the audience a verbal sample of her book entitled, *The Best Kind of Loving (The Black Woman's Guide to Finding Intimacy)*.

"I try to teach black people to stop trying to measure each other on Eurocentric values, material values. 'If he's not driving a BMW, honey, I don't want to be bothered with him,'" Dr. Grant said. "Don't worry about what he's driving and what he's wearing, you'd better worry about what he's thinking," she said in her "conversational" tone.

"He's got to be cute, ohh don't forget, he's got to be cute. My mother used to say, 'pretty is as pretty does, and if pretty don't do right, pretty soon, pretty gets ugly.' That's in the book too," Dr. Grant said.

"I interviewed the brothers and they made complaints about you (women)." These "complaints" are included in the book and she points out, "this is not a male-bashing book."

Talking with black men

Dr. Grant said, women tend to talk to black men as if talking with girlfriends. "I'm here to tell you as your psychologist, it doesn't work," with confidence, she said, "I know what I'm talking about, because I've talked to them (black men)."

According to "your psychologist," to obtain information and enhance conversational skills, should avoid challenging men and talking to men like they are children. Dr. Grant also said "pay attention to what he's saying and don't jump on him when he's saying things you don't want to hear."

According to Dr. Grant, her mother had a different approach to talking with her husband. "This is not sexual. You start a conversation with a black man in the dark," Dr. Grant whispered to the audience.



Gwendolyn Goldsby Grant

"Why?... Darkness softens a difficult subject matter. Darkness defends him against the body language that he thinks is unmasculine. For example, tears. One of the things I discovered about black men is they don't like to deal with things that are too intimate because it makes them feel unmanly."

Becoming secure in your relationship

To become secure in "your relationship you have to change your thinking. You have to take the psychological driver's seat position. You've got to market yourself as if you are the best thing in the world. (You have to believe) no woman is better than you. If "she" comes

along and tries to entice your man, this is what you do, you take the driver's seat position. I'm in the driver's seat, he's with me, she's thumbing a ride," said Dr. Grant with her fist clenched and her thumb pointed toward the ceiling as if hitching a ride. "You go girl," responded one female onlooker.

Singing your own lyric

"In the last chapter (of the book), I tell women to sing your own song. And don't let those lyrics be tied up in waiting and moaning and groaning. When a sister is singing a bad song, a boring, redundant, not to mention a song, more often than not, she is singing about some man who has treated her badly. This is the only life you've got. Each of us spends only a short time on this planet. It's up to you, to make your own life sweet."

Following the golden rule

Here is Dr. Grant's Golden Rule of relationships which she uses throughout the book. "Friendship first, lovers second and honesty always. But women tell me 'I jumped in the bed too fast, we lost friendship.' We need to learn how to be friends with these men. We complain about them, but we don't learn how to be friends with them. You (women) don't know how to talk to black men," she said.

In response, a black male present shouted "Amen."

With a kente cloth scarf draped over her right shoulder (sporting the letters "A.K.A."-Alpha Kappa) See **LOVING** page 10



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NEW YORK—Small Business Banking and Finance EXPO '95 at the New York Marriott Marquis Hotel from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more info call 212-704-1267.

NOW THRU MARCH 30
NEW YORK—American Management Association's "Fundamentals of Marketing: Your action plan for success" seminar. For more info or to register call 1-800-262-9699.

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TUESDAY, APRIL 4
E. BRUNSWICK—The White House Conference on Small Business (regional conference) will be at the Brunswick Hilton at 9 a.m. For more info call 201-645-3830.

WEHAWKEN—Regional Business Partnership's "Networking Reception: Aboard the Spirit of NJ" boat ride. For more info call Mike Bardt at 201-242-6237, ext. 222.

Irvington and East Orange seek designation as enterprise zones

by Sandra Wright

EAST ORANGE—New legislation is being sponsored to empower urban cities. Bill A-2606 is an act concerning the designation of additional urban enterprise zones in New Jersey, which will allow merchants in zone areas to charge only a fraction of the sales tax, thus generating more profit, which benefits the city and the businesses.

If approved, A-2606 will per-

mit the NJ Urban Enterprise Zone Authority to designate seven additional enterprise zones.

At a recent press conference in East Orange, Mayors Cardell Cooper and Sarah Bost called for support for the bill which is being co-sponsored by fellow Democrat Assemblyman Leroy Jones.

Mayor Cooper stated that the recent announcement of enterprise zones by New Jersey has left East Orange and Irvington and other towns like New Brunswick empty.

"It's unfortunate, because when talking about rebuilding cities you have to retain businesses that you have and give new businesses a reason to relocate within your borders," said Cooper. "It is important that this particular legislation be passed in order to maintain urban vitality."

The seven towns including East Orange and Irvington seeking urban enterprise zones are West New York, North Bergen, Hillside, Pennington and Atlantic City.

"Irvington cannot continue to be left out," said Mayor Bost. "Elizabeth and Orange have it (enterprise zone) and they take business away from Irvington because buyers know that they can



From left to right: Brian Hemphill, executive director, East Orange Chamber of Commerce; Mark Scotland, East Orange council president; East Orange Mayor Cardell Cooper; East Orange Assemblyman Leroy Jones; Irvington Mayor Sarah Bost

save money buying from businesses located in designated areas," continued Mayor Bost.

According to the legislation, one of the qualifications for a zone is that the zone be located in a municipality with a population greater than 55,000 and less than 65,000. Irvington fits in that category.

"Irvington with its 63,000 plus residents, is one of the largest urban communities in New Jersey with urban enterprise zone status," stated Mayor Bost. "Irvington has an unemployment rate of almost 10 percent, almost 13 percent of the population lives in poverty, [close to] 15 percent of Irvington is on some form of public assistance and vacant housing units are [approximately] 9 percent of the total. I urge the state to help us help ourselves."

Assemblyman Jones stated that the enterprise zone program provides two significant benefits for cities which qualify for designation.

"Retailers need charge only one-half of the state sales tax, and the revenue raised from the remaining tax is reserved for redevelopment projects within the community," said Jones.

Jones stated that it is unfortunate that the current administration in Trenton has adopted an urban policy which legitimizes the abandonment of urban cities under the motto "Save yourselves if you can."

"Since we no longer look to the governor for a commitment to

urban New Jersey, measures such as the urban enterprise zone program takes on greater importance."

East Orange fits the other category for qualification where a zone must be located in a municipality with a population greater than 70,000 and less than 80,000.

According to Mark Scotland, chair of the East Orange city council, there is a problem and it needs to be fixed.

"East Orange and the other six zones are sandwiched between two others that are enterprise zones. These communities are not asking for handouts...we are asking for fundamental fairness, a level playing field so that we can compete."

Michael Seseva, owner of the East Orange Camera Shop, where the conference was held said he is pleased with the legislation and was disturbed when East Orange was not designated.

"The impact is and will continue to be devastating to myself as a merchant here in East Orange. Without the three percent sales tax incentive offered to most urban enterprise zones, East Orange cannot stimulate economic development in the retail district," said Seseva.

Jones is urging elected officials to "get on the bandwagon. We need to start a letter writing campaign through the community to the governor to urge legislators to pass the urban enterprise zone bill."

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Empower

(Continued from page 1)

strongest support have come from women's groups. "Most of the time I have been the only black or the only woman in Trenton, and it has been groups like yours that have kept me going....It's going to take us all to see that we don't go back...we have to stick together and fight now."

After quoting the original Indian names of Cuba, Puerto Rico, Santo Domingo, and the United States keynote speaker Maria Moreno-Vega, executive director of the Caribbean Cultural Center of New York explained why it was necessary to do.

"I say that because it is important to understand recent world history...because there was no discovery, and our children still speak toward discovery in the school books, when Africa predated Western European culture, when the fact that Aztecs, Mayas, Cherokees, Mayans and Aztecs had high developed civilizations that allowed Western European civilization to develop."

She touched upon the subject of race and culture "that keeps us so divided," and the response was tumultuous. "It is extremely important that we understand who we are as Latinos, and African-American women, because too often we come together in a romantic sense or on a piece of paper, so we forget our his-

torical connection. As Latinos we are of Native, African and European blood; as African American we are of African, Native and European blood, not by choice, but that's real."

Looking around the room it seemed that the women were having the time of their lives. Moreno-Vega is culture, she is heritage, she is pride and she is a woman of color. She received thunderous shots of "preach," "That's right," and "Hello!"

She continued that Latinos speak Spanish because of the same reason blacks speak English; colonization. "Do understand that the word traveled it went to the West Indies, Latin America and then it came to these United States. The spread of us racially does not mean the spread of culture...Culture is what you learn but heritage is how you come into the world."

In closing Vega made a remark that should sit strongly in the minds of all present at the conference. "The opportunity that you have today in this historic conference is to be greater than feeling good, it's wonderful to feel good and embrace and say yes we are sisters, but if there is not an action agenda, if the about 500 women in this room do not decide on at least one action, at least one that you will undertake as a group, then the event will not have succeeded..."

Violence

(Continued from page 1)

women, and Bloomfield College hosted the event in hopes of bringing public awareness to the issue of violence against women.

"This is an issue that strikes almost every person in our country no matter what background or race," said Dorothy Kriener, president of the Zonta club of Essex County.

The half-day conference consisted of a host of workshops covering topics such as shaping children's attitudes and values in school, sexual harassment, battered women, conflict resolution, parenting skills, community involvement, legal protection and help services available.

US Attorney, District of New Jersey, Paul S. Hochberg, keynote speaker of the event relayed the seriousness of domestic violence and the need to diminish it and violence in general throughout our communities through some alarming facts.

"By the time I have finished this sentence, somewhere in the U.S. a woman will have been beaten by a man that she loves...50 percent of all women experience some form of violence by their spouse and 22 percent of all women polled said they performed sexual acts against their will, usually with someone they knew," said Hochberg.

"I urge you to reach your daughters and your grandchildren because they are the next generation

of women who need to know the dangers that are out there...Violence can happen in an instance so our goal is prevention," added Hochberg.

Hochberg praised women in top government positions saying they are committed to making a change.

"For the first time in history, New Jersey has women in the top three positions to affect law enforcement in this state: a governor, a state attorney general, Deborah Poritz and myself. We are all united in our commitment to fight crime and we know that crime affects women," she said.

According to Hochberg the US Justice System takes prosecuting crime offenders seriously as they are working diligently to rid the country of crime. She says they are using the newly passed Crime Bill to do so.

One of the provisions of the bill, which is being enforced, states that a person can face double the mandatory maximum penalty for dealing drugs 1,000 feet of a housing project. Another provision, which was recently used to convict a violent Atlantic City gang, is the Penalty Enhancement Provision targeted at street gangs. The provision states that any gang convicted of a crime will receive an additional 10 years added on to any sentence they receive.

Workshop sessions focused vastly on domestic violence and its effects on children and the commu-

nity. Experts from the prosecutor's office, woman's shelters and various community organizations formed a panel which helped to shed light on a sensitive situation.

Deborah Cannelli, assistant prosecutor, Essex County Prosecutor's Office and director of Domestic Violence Unit gave legal advice on criminal and civil procedures available to victims of domestic violence which include complaints and restraining orders.

"We are trying to send a strong message that restraining orders are to be taken seriously by both the police and assailant. We are more than willing to aggressively prosecute all domestic violence complaints," said Cannelli.

Another panelist, Kathryn Fisher, social worker for the Jersey

Battered Women's Services Inc. of Morris County reminded the audience of the importance of community involvement in preventing domestic violence.

"It is absolutely imperative that we mobilize our communities if we are going to have any effective impact on violence against women," Fisher says historically, the reaction toward violence against women has been negative and that violence has become accepted in our society. Fisher told the story of King Genevieve, a woman known to death while spectators watched.

"No one attempted to intervene, no one ran for help and she died. Afterwards prosecutors asked why didn't anyone do anything and they said 'We thought it was her husband.'"

Leadership

(Continued from page 1)

abilities and qualities, but needed to calm down and stop being so angry.

"Much of this frustration and anger stemmed from a lack of programs and services that I knew I needed, but was not receiving while growing up in Newark and attending Weequahic High School. As I matured, I learned it was necessary to be a polished, articulate leader.

Panelist Maria Vizcarondo-DeSoto, the first Latino surrogate in Essex County, defined leadership as a "means of making a commitment to justice, equality, and humanity." Before dispelling the myths of leadership, DeSoto also defined organizing as a process of pulling people together for a purpose.

DeSoto displayed a list of the myths that people have about leadership, and which she says "prevents them from moving forward."

1. Leadership is a rare skill... False. Leadership is something that must be developed, cultivated & nurtured.

2. Leaders are born, not made... False. You can learn leadership skills, experience has skills that are useful in performing as "effective" leaders.

3. Leaders are charismatic... True, but it also comes from a person's ability to put "experience, blood, sweat, tears, and heart into a cause. When you fight for something you truly believe in, you can only be charismatic," said DeSoto.

4. Leaders exist only at the top of an organization... False. DeSoto said, "nothing could be further from the truth. People at all levels of organizations serve as leaders due to the skills they possess."

5. Leadership controls, directs and manipulates... False. According to DeSoto, "women have the best sense of leadership, because you are better at convincing and walking with the truth, picking that truth and pushing that truth, and getting people to mobilize and do what is important."

She stated that one feminine

trait that makes leadership effective is by pulling rather than pushing, inspiring rather than ordering, by creating achievable goals through challenging expectations and rewarding progress rather than manipulating. "And that is where women make a difference."

Jane and Christie Davis, State Director for U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg, said "we as women, are all leaders...Most of the (young) women I come in contact with, I tell them to excel in something...everyone cannot be a terrific speaker, everyone cannot be a terrific fund-raiser, everyone cannot be a terrific builder of a community, however, everyone has something to offer in leadership."

Davis stressed the importance of reaching back into the community and described her role as a mentor to a thirteen year old, via the One-to-One New Jersey Mentoring Program. I also have several people I call on when I need reflection, advice, or a shoulder to cry on."

Upon moving to Middlesex County, Davis said she had no real sense of community with the other lawyers who were mostly white and male. So she started her own Bar Association.

"When I went to Bar Association meetings, it felt like I had added one to a list in the Bar book and identified other black women lawyers and launched a Black Women Lawyers Association, which started with five members and now we are 25 strong," said Davis.

She urged workshop participants to support organizations such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the United Negro College Fund (UNCF). Equally important, Davis said, is to get involved in organizations such as the PTA. "Don't be afraid of new opportunities in leadership...Network to build relationships to side your scope of influence and interests," she concluded.

Children

(Continued from page 5)

our husbands leave us, become sick, or die. Who will provide for us if we are not dependent on ourselves?" said Bey.

A single mother and college student herself, Bey stated, "through all the years and hurt we must continue on. As women, we must empower ourselves through education, information, involvement, and ownership."

Workshop attendee and Warren Street School Principal Blanche L. Bishop held the topic was right on time "...I don't believe in a school take-over. I believe in a parent take-over. I believe in community take-over. I believe that the people need to take over!"

Loving

(Continued from page 7)

Alpha) the advice columnist closed by suggesting that women be "sensitive" to men. She said, some sisters have responded by saying,

"Well somebody ought to see about me." To that she responds, "She doesn't even know her own power. He is the carrier of culture. He didn't raise you, you raised him. Understand your own power."

"She is a powerful, inspiring person and what she has to say is so

true to black women. We should use her as a guide," said Cynthia McKay of Hillside.

"I saw Dr. Grant on a few talk shows (she has made guest appearances on Oprah Sally Jessy Raphael, The MacNeil-Lehrer News hour, CNN, Geraldo, and Black Entertainment Television). So, I told my wife we have to get to Ke'-Dar. I intended on being here no matter what," said Irvington resident Willie Green.

Republicans

(Continued from page 1)

Dumher," said Shalala. "We all know that welfare reform must be about strengthening families—not tearing them apart or writing them off. Our goal must be to lift people up, not punish them because they happen to be poor or young. We need to be tough—not cruel."

In the last subject, ending welfare as we know it, the house Republicans received an "incomplete" for not having a clear vision nor showing a true commitment.

Regardless of changes that have been made in their proposals, as the elimination of the word, "orphans," House Republicans have not shown enough willingness to work together for common-sense solutions.

"Through it all," ended Shalala, "we need you to continue to stand up for our children. Because as you know, children don't have lobbyists. They're not a special interest group. They don't buy TV time or host radio talk shows. And, they can't vote."

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